

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides an isolated nucleic acid characteristic of human amyloid precursor protein 770 including the nucleotides encoding codon 670 and 671, wherein the nucleic acid encodes an amino acid other than lysine at codon 670 and/or an amino acid other than methionine at codon 671. Also provided is a method of diagnosing or predicting a predisposition to Alzheimer's disease, comprising detecting in a sample from a subject the presence of a mutation at a nucleotide position corresponding to codons 670 and/or 671 of amyloid precursor protein or fragment thereof, the presence of the mutation indicating the presence of or a predisposition to Alzheimer's disease.

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